

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /057 W

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P R 230930Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4430

INFO COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK

DIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 11235

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH

SUBJ: DEATH OF GEN. KRIT SIWARA

REF: STATE 97938

1. GEN KRIT SIWARA, MINISTER OF DEFENSE-DESIGNATE, DIED AT 0730 HOURS LOCAL TIME APRIL 23 FROM COMPLICATIONS OF A HEART ATTACK SUFFERED ON APRIL 16.
2. THE SITUATION IS STILL CONFUSED, BUT IT IS PROBABLE THAT DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENSE GEN. THAWIT SENIWONG NA AYUTTHAYA, A DEMOCRAT MP FROM BANGKOK, WILL BE NAMED ACTING MINISTER OF DEFENSE PENDING FINAL ALLOCATION OF THIS PORTFOLIO.
3. WITH THE CABINET ALREADY IN PLACE, THAWIT'S APPOINTMENT WOULD BE THE MOST LOGICAL ACTION FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO TAKE. IT WOULD NOT UPSET THE AGREED UPON DIVISION OF PORTFOLIOS BY PARTIES AND WOULD OBVIATE THE NEED FOR EXTENSIVE RENEGOTIATIONS.
4. A POSSIBLE BID FOR THE DEFENSE PORTFOLIO BY MG PRAMAN ADIREKSAN, MINISTER OF DEFENSE IN THE KHUKRIT CABINET AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE IN THE PRESENT CABINET MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED. PRAMAN'S SON, HOWEVER, TOLD AN

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EMBOFF ON APRIL 23 THAT PRAMAN WOULD NOT RPT NOT MAKE A

BID FOR THE DEFENSE PORTFOLIO BECAUSE HE ALREADY HAD AN IMPORTANT PORTFOLIO IN A CABINET THAT WAS ALREADY IN PLACE.

5. IF PRAMAN DOES UTLIMATELY MAKE A BID, IT WOULD REOPEN THE INTRA-PARTY STRUGGLE WITHIN THE DEMOCRAT PARTY ITSELF, AND GOAD SOCIAL JUSTICE PARTY LEADERS TO MAKE ADDITIONAL DEMANDS, ESPECIALLY IF THE DEMOCRATS APPEARED WILLING TO ACCOMMODATE PRAMAN'S DEMAND. CERTAIN TOP LEADERS IN THE MILITARY WOULD PROBABLY ALSO BE UNHAPPY WITH PRAMAN AS DEFENSE MINISTER, MORE SO IN LIGHT OF HIS RECENT PROMOTION OF CHALAT HIRANYASIRI TO BE DEPUTY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ROYAL THAI ARMY. A LIKE SITUATION WOULD OCCUR IF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER THAWI CHUNL-ASAP SHOULD MAKE A BID FOR THE DEFENSE PORTFOLIO, WHICH HE HAD HELD IN 1973-74.

6. THE SITUATION IS TOO CONFUSED AT THIS TIME ACCURATELY TO SEE THE ULTIMATE OUTCOME OF KRIT'S DEATH.  
WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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